Irrigated Public Open Space (IPOS) Permit Holders User Guide

Irrigation Consumption Recording – (Manual Record)

This step by step guide will help IPOS permit holders implement and overcome any difficulties they may encounter while managing their allocation/irrigation events during the irrigation season. The conditions outlined in an IPOS permit will specify what time your irrigation may be run. Any special conditions related to your specific permit will be outlined on the reverse side of the permit. The permit and all other documentation should be read in its entirety to ensure you or any other persons involved are familiar with all of the terms and conditions.

Key points to remember

Water is **only one essential ingredient** required for healthy turf. A number of other key ingredients will assist you to maintain a fit for purpose turf. These include:

- Implementing and following a maintenance program is essential for optimum health of turf and the soil in which it grows
- Decompaction of high traffic areas, fertilising at the correct time of year, regular verti-draining/coring and scarifying are of vital importance to turf health
- Mowing turf at the correct intervals and at the correct height is also important.

An irrigation efficiency audit is also an essential part of implementing IPOS as correct operation of your irrigation system is one of the most important factors to achieve a desired result. Poor distribution uniformity can lead to an uneven surface of green and dead patches are often wrongly solved by increasing the amount of water applied to compensate for drier areas resulting in wasted water.

Refer to the list of qualified auditors provided in the welcome pack for further details and aim to have an audit conducted on your irrigation system within the first three months. If an audit has been completed within the past five years, forward a copy to IPOS Administration SA Water Customer Technical Services GPO Box 1751 Adelaide SA 5001. It is essential any recommendations made as a result of the audit are followed to ensure the most efficient and effective use of your system.

Step 1: Finding your Optimal Irrigation Event (OIE) and the number of events per month

1. Refer to the back page of your IPOS permit to find your recommended OIE. This will be shown as a volumetric allocation in kilolitres of water (kL) and millimetres (mm) of water. Your OIE refers to the amount of water required to refill soil to the depth of turf roots and is relevant to the type of soil on your site. It is important to irrigate each time to the required OIE to prevent water wastage through evaporation, runoff and drainage past the roots.
2. Below the detailed OIE you will see the allocated number of irrigation events per month shown in a table. This is the number of times you may operate your irrigation system for a complete run cycle of the OIE per month (eg: Jan - 6 events, Feb – 7 events).
3. The number of events scheduled is calculated to supply the volume of water your turf requires under current climatic conditions.
4. You will notice below the allocated number of events the total volume this equates to is shown in kL.

SA Water

Step 2: Checking the volume of your current irrigation event against the recommended OIE and making adjustments using the provided Irrigation Consumption Recording Excel Spreadsheet

1. Prior to an irrigation event read your meter/s in the evening and record the reading using the consumption record sheet provided. **(refer to the how to read your meter fact sheet included in your welcome pack)**.
2. Run the system overnight.
3. Read the meter/s the following morning and enter the figures into the consumption record sheet.
4. Subtract the first reading figure from the second reading figure to calculate the amount of water in kilolitres (kL) you are using each irrigation event.
5. If the figure does not match the OIE you will need to calculate the percentage of increase or decrease needed for the running times of your irrigation system. Please note: all line of irrigation must be adjusted by the same percentage together. Do not attempt to reduce total run time by reducing or eliminating one line.
6. Repeat this until your irrigation event matches the required OIE Please note: repeat irrigation events must be in accordance with your IPOS permit (eg within your allocated number of events and within the permitted time frames).
7. Your OIE will need to be finetuned during your irrigation audit process.

Step 3: Recording irrigation events and water consumption usage *(N.B. this process of recording and reporting is compulsory as part of the IPOS Permit Terms and Conditions)*

1. Record your meter readings before and after the first four irrigation events using the consumption record sheet (continue to monitor and adjust use to match OIE).
2. Read your meter once a month before and after an event to ensure your system is operating correctly and record the consumption of that event. Keep a record in the comments column in your irrigation events log.
3. Record the number of irrigation events each month. Include the date and time of each event and any relevant comments.

The consumption record spreadsheet must be sent to SA Water upon completion each month. Spreadsheets can be emailed to iposadmin@sawater.com.au and hard copy consumption record sheets can be faxed to IPOS Administration on 08 7003 3797.

Step 4: End of irrigation season

1. At the end of the irrigation season shut down your system making sure it is not scheduled to run through the cooler months of the year when irrigation is not necessary.
2. In July a permit renewal must be completed by the responsible person and submitted to SA Water within the requested timeframe. This will ensure an IPOS permit and any subsequent permits are re-issued prior to the next irrigation season. Refer to the SA Water website www.sawater.com.au to download a permit renewal form.

Your feedback is important to us. Please do not hesitate to contact IPOS Administration by telephone on 08 7424 3719 or email iposadmin@sawater.com.au.